



World Food Programme

Decision Memorandum

To:	Mr. Jim Harvey Chief of Staff, OED	Date: 16 November 2015
Through:	Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva Assistant Executive Director, OS	
	Mr. Finbarr Curran Director Budget and Programming Division, RMB	
From:	Mr. Stefano Porretti Director of Emergencies, OSE	

Subject:	Bolivia Country Office requests fund allocation for an IR-PREP for specific preparedness activities in relation to El Niño.
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Issue

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval for an allocation of US\$ 99,314 to support specific preparedness activities in Bolivia in relation to El Niño.

Background

Most climate models indicate that by the end of the year a strong El Niño phenomenon will develop in the Pacific Ocean. The intensity of this even is beginning to increase with a peak expected for the last quarters of 2015. According to different sources, this could become one of the strongest El Niño of the last 35 years.

Bolivia is within the area expected to be affected by El Niño. In Bolivia it is expected to modify the rainfall patterns causing floods in the northern lowlands and droughts in the highlands and in El Chaco Region. In recent years the recurrence and impact of El Niño/La Niña events have significantly increased.

These events exacerbate the already difficult situation of the most food insecure populations. Frequent natural disasters have significant impact on agriculture and causes unreliable source of income, and rural indigenous families often experience seasonal food deficits. The impact of extreme weather events – in terms of flood or droughts – on livelihoods and food and nutrition include disruptions of resources of income; irregular harvest patterns; reduction of crop yields or total destruction; reduced livestock herds. Bolivia has a population of more than 10 million, out of which 43 percent live below the poverty line. 41 percent of rural households live in extreme poverty, not being able to afford a minimum food basket. According to the latest national nutrition survey, stunting prevalence among children under 5 in Bolivia is one of the highest in the region: 27 percent nationally and 37 percent in rural areas.

There is a general concern about the impact of a strong El Niño in Bolivia. The Government has been working on preparedness actions. The Vice Minister of Civil Defense (VIDECI), the national Government's agency that is responsible for emergency response and rehabilitation, has prepared along with key sectors (agriculture, health, education, infrastructure) a contingency plan based on the most likely scenarios. A risk analysis identified 110 municipalities to be potentially affected where 4.4 million people live. Approximately 500,000 people are under high risk of being directly affected. The total cost to implement the plan is USD 12 million, out of which some USD 1.3 are needed for preparedness activities.

The Government has requested WFP to support its preparedness actions, namely:

1. Scenario simulations: in line with the contingency plan, the VIDECI has requested WFP to assist in improving its preparedness capacities. One of the main components is to test the contingency plan. The Government plans to carry out simulation as nation and sub-national levels. WFP has already proved its experience in running simulations to implement response protocols and to identify gaps and weaknesses.
2. Storage capacity improvement: the management capacity of food and other humanitarian items is the other area prioritized by the Government. Severe floods in the Northern lowlands – the worst in 50 years – highlighted serious storage and river transportation problems. Therefore a mobile storage warehouse is going to be purchased.
3. Warehouse tracking system: provide assistance to the government on the development of a warehouse tracking system to better track humanitarian items. This will allow for data to be collected and stored on stocks, expiration dates, movements as well as improve reporting capacities.

The duration of this project will be for 3 months (15 November 2015 to 14 February 2016).

The detailed request from the Bolivia CO and the budget for preparedness activities are attached. Budget is totalling US\$ 103,683, but we will currently allocate the US\$ 99,314 required for 2015. Remaining balance will be allocated in 2016.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this proposal, for an allocation of US\$ 99,314, be approved as the proposed will augment WFPs operational capacity in the region and offer resources to support preparedness in Bolivia.



Decision by the Chief of Staff, OED:

Approve: _____

Disapprove: _____

Discuss with me: _____

Date: _____

cc: Regional Bureau/Country office
Chief RMB
OSEP Chrono